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The continuing spread of *Nephus quadrimaculatus* (Herbst) (Col.: Coccinellidae)

Nephus quadrimaculatus has long been considered a rare species in Britain, and was listed by Hyman and Parsons (1992. *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain, Part 1*. UK Nature Conservation, number 3 JNCC) as Vulnerable (Red Data Book category 2). Recent years have seen a marked increase in reports of this ladybird. Traditionally believed to be largely confined to Suffolk (VCs 25 and 26), it was found in West Kent (VC 16) during the 1990s, and Hawkins (2000. *Ladybirds of Surrey*. Surrey Wildlife Trust) describes and maps extensive records for VC 17.

On 12 March 2000, I found a single example among non-flowering ivy growing over old fences and regenerating English elm in the High Street at Trumpington near Cambridge (VC 29). Colston, Gerrard and Parslow (1997 *Cambridgeshire's Red Data Book*. Cambs. Wildlife Trust) indicates that the species has been recorded in the county recently, but gives no further details. At the time of the above capture, I noted that a new supermarket was under construction at the site, and within a few weeks the *N. quadrimaculatus* habitat had been removed as part of these operations. Beating nearby flowering growth of ivy on a subsequent occasion did not yield any further individuals. Near Watford, in the south-west of Hertfordshire (VC 20), beating ivy in the churchyard at Abbots Langley on 2 April 2001 produced two examples. This is the second record for the county, following one at Royston in the north-east in the previous year (A. Halstead per T. James, pers. comm.).

These observations hint at a widespread distribution in and around the above counties of a species which should present little difficulty in identification. The excellent survey by Hawkins (*op. cit.*) includes a colour plate of the insect, but the key in Majerus and Kearns (1989. *Ladybirds*. Richmond Publishing), although accurate in all other particulars, erroneously gives the colour of the (red) elytral spots as yellow, a misconception arising from the examination of faded museum specimens, as acknowledged in Majerus' later monograph (1994. *Ladybirds*. HarperCollins).— C.M. EVERETT, The Lodge, Kytes Drive, Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 9NZ.

***Scraptia fuscula* Müller and *S. testacea* Allen (Col.: Scaptiidae) in Buckinghamshire**

On 20 July 1998, two female *Scraptia* were collected at Ankerwycke, Buckinghamshire (grid reference TQ 002729: these have been determined by Mr A. A. Allen as examples of *S. fuscula* and *S. testacea*. Although the